

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 02270 230830Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SCS-06 EB-08 CA-01 SSO-00
/029 W

-----127156 230838Z /11
O 230715Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6707

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 2270

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EINV, FIN, BGEN, NI
SUBJECT: AIG

REF: STATE 043594

1. LEFEVRE INFORMED ECON COUNSELOR FEBRUARY 21 THAT LAWYER EGBE HAD HAD LENGTHY MEETING WITH MINTRADE PERMSEC ALHAJI DURING WEEK OF FEBRUARY 13. MEETING WAS ARRANGED TO DISCUSS AIG COMPROMISE PROPOSAL IN DETAIL. ALHAJI LISTENED TO ALL THAT EGBE HAD TO SAY AND THEN BURST INTO ANGRY DENUNCIATION OF COMPANY, REJECTING PROPOSAL AND STATING THAT AIG DESERVED NO DIFFERENT TREATMENT FROM OTHER COMPANIES.

2. EGBE AND LEFEVRE ARE NOW OF OPINION THAT ALHAJI IS KEY MAN ON ANY DECISION THAT FMG MAKES. THEY REASON THAT ANY ONE IN GOVERNMENT SWHO AIG CONTACTS WILL IN TURN GO TO ALHAJI FOR GUIDANCE AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION. ALHAJI WILL THEN PRE-SUMABLY DELIVER THE SAME DISTRIIBE AGAINST THE COMPANY. QUITE UNDERSTANDABLY, LEFEVRE BELIEVES PROSPECTS ARE DIM FOR ANY COMPANY OR ANYTHING USG ACTION SHORT EXPROPRIATION DETERMINATION.

3. LEFEVRE ALSO REPORTS THAT MINFINANCE AND MINTRADE HAVE WASHED THEIR HANDS OF PASSPORT CASE AND PASSED IT TO POLICE AUTHORITIES. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS NIGERIAN POLICE AND NOT NSO.
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HE BELIEVES THAT HIS OWN CASE HAS NOW BEEN CATEGORIZED AS ONE OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. AS SUCH HE HOPES TO LEARN WHATEVER SPECIFIC CHARGES THERE ARE AGAINST HIM.

4. EMBASSY DELIVERED NOTE TODAY TO MEA ACCEPTING LEFEVRE'S PASSPORT AND INFORMING MINISTRY THAT LEFEVRE MAY HAVE TO LEAVE NIGERIA TEMPORARILY FOR BUSINESS OR PERSONAL REASONS BUT THAT HE

WILL CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH FMG IN ITS INVESTIGATION OF AIIC.

5. PLEASE ADVISE US WHETHER PRESIDENTIAL DISCRETION AUTHORIZED
IN APPLICATION OF HICKENLOOPER AND GONZALEZ AMENDMENTS. WE ALSO
REQUEST THAT AF/W ENSURE THAT CA/SCS RECEIVE COPIES OF ALL
MESSAGES RELATING TO LEFEVRE CASE AND PARTICIPATE IN FORMULATION
OF INSTRUCTIONS TO EMBASSY ON HANDLING OF CASE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSURANCE, TRADE COMPLAINTS, INVESTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAGOS02270
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780083-0814
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780223/aaaaatfo.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 03639ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 43594
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3508350
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIG
TAGS: EINV, EFIN, BGEN, NI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/03639ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014